

1 The Open Space and Trails Committee met on Thursday, July 11, 2019 at Seabrook City Hall,
2 1700 First Street, Seabrook, Texas to discuss and if appropriate, take action on the agenda items
3 listed below.

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5 **THOSE PRESENT WERE:**

6 Helen Burton	Chair
7 Sally Antrobus	Vice-Chair
8 John Coggeshall	Member
9 Monica Comeaux	Member
10 Debra Harper	Member
11 David Popken (Absent)	Member
12 Heather Cable	Member
13 Kevin Padgett	Public Works Director
14 Sean Landis	Deputy City Manager
15 Stephanie Martinez	Executive Administrative Assistant

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17 Chair Helen Burton called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

18 **1. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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20 Vice Chair Antrobus stated that on July 28, 2019 it will be Moth Night at Deer Park Prairie.
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22 **2. COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

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24 **2.1 Update on recent and ongoing park activities and improvements from Committee**
25 **members, and park reports from Committee Park Checks. (Committee)**

26 Member Harper stated that the Grandma Oak and Plumeria at Baybrook Park was whacked
27 and bent by someone or something.

28 **2.2 City Staff update.**

29 Public Works Director, Kevin Padgett, notified the Committee that the City is preparing for a
30 possible storm and that the Fourth of July Kids Parade was a success.

31 **2.3 Update on the City of Seabrook Strategic Planning session held on June 21, 2019.**
32 **(Committee)**

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34 Chair Burton, Vice Chair Antrobus, and Member Harper attended the Strategic Planning
35 session. During a breakout session, the Open Space and Trails Committee assigned
36 themselves to the economic development subgroup that included Seabrook Economic
37 Development Corporation Director, Paul Chavez, Mayor Kolupski, and two other
38 councilmembers. In this subgroup, it was discussed that as the population grows in Seabrook
39 more parks are needed. For example, the High Line in New York, it is a park located on an

elevated fright line. Once that park was built, people gravitated towards that area. This park also raised real estate values. This discussion did receive push back from the council members in the subgroup.

The Council and City Staff complimented and praised the Committee for their hard labor.

Sean Landis, Deputy City Manager, stated that the next step following the strategic planning session is staff will create individual goals to be accomplished for this coming up year from the main topics created at the strategic planning session.

2.4 Discussion on the removal or replacement of the Seabrook Prairie Signs. (Committee)

A Seabrook resident has requested the removal of the Seabrook Prairie signs because they are faded.

By Committee consensus, the Seabrook Prairie signs will be replaced. Member Coggeshall will make the new sign. The new signs will be smaller and will not be informational.

2.5 Discussion and approval of the Action Item Checklist. (Committee)

- Volunteers: The Committee Members gave their volunteer hours to Chair Burton during the meeting to keep records current.
- Report to Council: Chair Burton went over the presentation she will make to Council on July 16, 2019 Regular City Council meeting.
- Birding Event: The bird count held on July 6, 2019 was well attended. More signage should be placed on the picnic table where one signs in to help guide any attendees who arrive late. The birding seminar will be held on August 1, 2019 at the Public Works facility over fall migration.
- Mile Maker Trail Map: No updated information at the time.
- Seabrook Prairie: The prairie was recently mowed.
- Seed Library and Community Garden: The seed library is up and running. The community garden at the library is underway.
- Woodlands Regeneration: No updated information at the time.
- Irrigation System at Pine Gully: No updated information at the time.
- Specific Bird Feeder Removal: This project is complete.
- North American Prairie Conference: Vice Chair Antrobus attended the 2019 North American Prairie Conference. She stated there was two days of field trips and two days of presentations. The biggest prairie visited had 20,000 acres and the smallest prairie had 900 acres. The main thing learned from the sessions attended is that the restoration of a prairie is not a straightforward project and that every prairie is

different. The key message from the conference is that throughout the nation natural grasslands are reduced to about 1% of their original extent. The grassland is replanted and replaced with pasture grass which is something like a dessert to the local wildlife. For us, every acre restored makes a huge difference.

Some local expertise who were considered for the Carothers Coastal Gardens Task Force were presenters at the conference.

- Carothers Coastal Gardens Task Force: The first meeting will be held in August 2019.
- Keep Texas Beautiful: The City and Open Space and Trails Committee members are continuing their education with Keep Texas Beautiful.
- TPWD Bird Conservation Grant: The Committee has been recognized as a winner of a Conservation Grant from Texas Parks and Wildlife. The \$1,000.00 conservation grant will fund the purchase and installation of 2 chimney swift towers and interpretive signs in Seabrook.
- TxDOT SRTS Sidewalk Grant: City staff is awaiting letters of support from the surrounding schools, library, and dignitaries for the grant submission. City staff is also working with the school district on a safe route to school program.
- Trail lighting: This project is currently ongoing.
- Expansion of Parking at Robinson Park: The expansion of the parking lot is complete. The conduit and pole installation for a LED security light are complete. The electrician for the City will soon install the LED light.

2.6 Approve the minutes of the June 6, 2019 Open Space and Trails Committee meeting. (Martinez)

Motion was made by Member Harper and seconded by Vice Chair Antrobus

To approve the minutes of the June 6, 2019 Open Space and Trails Committee meeting

MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

2.7 Establish future meeting dates and agenda items.

The next meeting will be August 1, 2019.

Item requested to be added to the Action Item Checklist is:

- Butterfly Garden sign
- Parks Master Plan Consultant

117 Upon motion duly made, the meeting was adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

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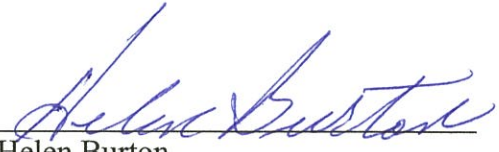
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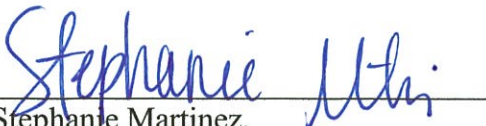
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Helen Burton,
Chair


Stephanie Martinez,
Executive Administrative Assistant